

LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON CIVIC EDUCATION

R.S. 24:971 – 974

§971. Louisiana Commission on Civic Education; creation; purpose

A. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, hereinafter referred to as "commission," is hereby established.

B. The purposes of the commission shall include the following:

(1) To educate citizens in the community as well as students in schools on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy.

(2) To promote communication and collaboration among organizations in the state that conduct civic education programs.

§972. Membership; meetings; compensation; staff

A. The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) The governor, or his designee.

(2) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.

(3) The state attorney general, or his designee.

(4) The secretary of state, or his designee.

(5) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

(6) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

(7) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.

(8) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.

(9) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

(10) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee.

(11) One state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School Program, to represent the Senate program, appointed by the president of the Senate.

(12) One state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School Program, to represent the House of Representatives program, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(13) The state coordinator of Project Citizen.

(14) The executive director of the Public Affairs Research Council.

(15) The executive director of the Council for a Better Louisiana.

(16) One member to represent Louisiana Public Broadcasting, appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Corporation.

(17) One member to represent the League of Women Voters, appointed by the League of Women Voters of Louisiana.

(18) One member to represent the Louisiana Press Association and one member to represent the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, appointed by the president of each association.

(19) One member to represent the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, appointed by the president of its board of directors.

(20) One member to represent the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations, appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations.

(21) One member to represent the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appointed by the president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

(22) The chairman of the Louisiana Serve Commission, or his designee.

(23) Any additional member who has expertise in civic education or civic involvement, as may be designated by three-fourths of the commission members present and voting. Such member shall serve at the pleasure of the commission.

B. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and such other officers as it shall determine.

C. A member of the commission shall serve without compensation for his services, but may receive a per diem and be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses actually incurred on business of the commission provided such reimbursement is authorized and paid by the representative agency or organization.

D. The commission shall hold at least two meetings each year and may hold other meetings upon the call of the chairman or majority of the members. The initial meeting of the commission shall be called by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly.

E. Staff and facilities needed by the commission to accomplish its purposes shall be provided by the legislature from its existing resources.

§973. Powers and functions

A. The commission shall:

(1) Develop and coordinate outreach programs in collaboration with member organizations, agencies, and schools to educate citizens on the importance of understanding the following:

(a) That representative democracy is a process dependent on reasoned debate, good faith negotiation, and compromise.

(b) That individual involvement is a critical factor in community success.

(c) That consideration and respect of others must be shown when deliberating, negotiating, and advocating positions on public concerns.

(2) Identify civic education projects in Louisiana and provide technical assistance as may be needed to such programs.

(3) Build a network of civic education professionals to share information and strengthen partnerships.

(4) Develop, in consultation with entities having representatives on the commission and others as determined by the commission, a clearinghouse which shall be available on the Internet and which shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) A database of civic education resources, lesson plans, and other programs of best practices in civic education.

(b) A bulletin board to promote discussion on and exchange of ideas relative to civic education.

(c) An events calendar.

(d) Links to civic education research.

(5) Value and support successful civic education programs in the state and encourage expansion of such efforts.

(6) Prepare and provide an annual report of activities to the governor and to the legislature.

B. The commission may establish such committees as it deems necessary to carry out its functions.

§974. Funding

To achieve the purposes of this Chapter, the commission may seek, accept, and expend monies from any source, including donations, state appropriations, and federal grants and may seek, accept, and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.